

GREAT

GOIT RIVER ENVIRONMENT ACTION TEAM

June Newsletter 2010



A budding sculptor making her mark on the Goitway entrance

Goitway Footpath

As you will have seen, the new low-mobility path is almost complete and it is already being well used. Groundwork's contractors, "The Green Team", were badly held up during the severe winter weather but the project is now successfully back on track and will be completed in time for the formal opening on **Monday 19th July 2.0 pm**. Please come along and enjoy the event.



You may also have seen pupils from St John's and St Joseph's schools busy working at the path entrance with the Artist and Sculptor, Thompson Dagnall. We hope that you will enjoy the completed work which will provide an attractive entrance to the Goitway path.

At the opening, it is planned that the pupils will plant some bushes and trees to complete the landscaping of the path.

We are planning to install at least 2 benches along the path. If anyone would like to dedicate a seat to a family member or

worthy cause, then please contact us. The cost will be approximately £250.00.

As we mentioned in last year's newsletter, the Goitway project has been funded by generous grants from:

£17,500-United Futures (United Utilities Community Fund)
£15,000-Lancashire County-Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund
£20,000-Lancashire County Council Capital Fund to facilitate continuation of the Low Mobility Path
£10,000- from a special Access Fund at LCC.
£1,000-Withnell Parish Council

The GREAT team is extremely grateful for the support we have had from the staff of these organisations who have helped to bring the project to fruition. Also thanks to the staff and pupils of St John's and St Joseph's for their enthusiastic contribution to the design and sculpting of the entrance to the Goitway Path.

Goitway Bridlepath

We are pleased that LCC have successfully negotiated with United Utilities to provide a bridlepath that extends from the end of the Goitway Footpath for 3 miles via White Coppice to Waterman's Cottage on Anglezarke Reservoir. Adventurous families can now take advantage of this much greater accessibility into our countryside on bikes or horses as well.

This is a feeder route of the National Pennine Bridleway terminating at Smithills/Rivington and linking into the East Lancs circuit. See

http://www.westpenninemoors.com/visiting_cyclinghorsesriding

Railway Road Improvements

The first objective of the GREAT team 4 years ago has always been to remove the ugly green fence along Railway Road and replace it with a more visually attractive alternative.

"Take these prison bars down and replace with a hedgerow to improve wildlife and quality of life for everyone" Woodland View resident

"When I get up in the morning and draw the curtains, I feel as though I'm in a cage, they're a blot on the landscape and an eyesore" Railway Road resident

United Utilities would not object to the removal of the fence and opening up the Goit, providing the resulting landscaping satisfied their health and safety requirements. As we have already reported, the cost of uncovering The Goit is currently beyond our means, but we have not lost sight of this vision.

In the mean time, we are therefore energetically focussing on the replacement of the green railings. We will shortly be seeking funding for a design study that will produce a costed project plan that will facilitate an application for planning permission. We will publicize the availability of these plans when they have been submitted.

If you have any ideas or can make a positive contribution to the development of the next phase, we'd like to hear from you.

The GREAT team
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Contact the Secretary
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